

MINUTES AND REPORT
of
MEETING OF COUNCIL
of

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

Held at Victorian Co-operative Credit Association, Wellington St., St. Kilda
on Saturday 17th March 1979 commencing 6 p.m.

1. Present

Mr. M. Rundle - Chairman
Mr. O.J. Slattery - Vice Chairman
Mr. J. Bainbridge
Mr. J.N. Black
Mr. K.D. Currey
Mr. E.J. Long
Mr. B.H. Macintosh
Mr. J.E.W. Mason
Mr. W.W. Rawlinson - Executive Officer

Apology for non-attendance received from:

Mr. J.F. Rourke
Mr. J. Rigby
Mr. I.A. Wood

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 19th February 1979 having been circulated were adopted as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Co-operative for disadvantaged - Minute 3(ii)

The Executive Officer reported that efforts continue for contact with the Secretary of the Victorian Employment Committee, Mr. D. Brabet, the Chairman of which is the Minister for Social Welfare, Sport and Recreation the Hon. B.J. Dixon. This Committee operates with three sub-committees, one of which is a Co-operative and Small Business Committee.

that period, it was agreed the Federation should be represented by Directors of Morwell Co-operative if possible and a report on the proceedings submitted to Council.

4.2 From T. Chatani, Japan
re Bay closing machine

The offer was noted by interested Councillors.

4.3 From Trade Practices Commission
re Sellers and Manufacturers Obligations

- Noted.

4.4 Copy of Address of Minister of Co-operatives N.S.W. to Conference of Co-operative Federation New South Wales
Noted and commended for attention of Minister administering Co-operation Act in Victoria.

5. Financial

A financial statement covering period 1.7.78 to 28.2.79 with estimated Balance Sheet as at 28.2.79 was submitted to the meeting.

Council directed that reminder notices be sent to members whose current subscription dues are in arrears.

After full discussion and explanations, the financial report was received and adopted.

6. Membership

Applications for membership were received from:

- (i) The Herd Improvement Organisation
- (ii) Victorian Artificial Breeders Co-operative
- (iii) Maryborough Energy Research Foundation Co-operative

Dues payable in respect of (i) and (ii) were received in full. A lower than minimum subscription was submitted in support of the application for (iii) - a new Co-operative with no trading record and no established turnover.

Council resolved to accept the three applications and in respect of (iii) that advice be sent of acceptance, despite payment of lower than minimum subscription, as evidence of encouragement for the newer Co-operative venture.

7. Meeting with Minister

This has been arranged for 0930 hours 22nd March 1979. Council agreed:

- (i) The deputation will include Mr. Long, Advisory Council Member
- (ii) In the absence of the Vice President, due to previous commitments, the deputation will comprise:
 - The President - Mr. Rundle
 - Advisory Council Member - Mr. Long
 - Executive Officer - Mr. Rawlinson
- (iii) The deputation would speak to the agreed brief and make formal submission for:
 - (a) increased recognition to be given to the significance of the Co-operative Sector of the economy in Victoria.

- (b) Any promotion of the Co-operative concept by Government give equal emphasis to the need for sound business structure to be developed as well as an adherence to the social and philosophic principles of Co-operation.
- (c) Note to be taken of the allocation of a Ministerial portfolio for Co-operatives in New South Wales and consideration be given to adopting a specific portfolio for Co-operative administration in the Victorian Government.
- (d) Note be taken of the practice in Queensland where statutory provision exists for the formation of a Co-operative Federation incorporated under the Co-operative and Other Societies Act of that State which is authorised to receive into membership Co-operatives incorporated under other legislation.
- (e) Note to be taken of the present structure and functions of the Co-operative Advisory Council under Division 2, Section 93 of the Co-operation Act where only one Co-operative representative is currently in membership and no statutory provision exists for such specific Co-operative representation. In other Co-operative Advisory Bodies e.g. Credit Co-operatives, Building Societies, statutory provision exists for membership to include "persons having experience in conduct and management of relevant Societies".
- (f) Note to be taken of the contribution that could be made by the Co-operative Federation of Victoria to the Victorian Employment Committee and its sub-committee on Co-operatives and small businesses.

8. Corporate Plan
Council commenced a workshop session on this subject at 0900 on the 17th March 1979 which was scheduled to conclude at 1300 on 18th March. Council agreed costs of accommodation and meals would be charged to each member with those of the Executive Officer being paid by the Federation. Council directed a formal letter of appreciation be forwarded to Mr. McLoughlin for his conduct of the workshop.

9. Incorporation
Council reconsidered the subject of incorporation of the Federation and after consideration of costs agreed to defer positive action until the future of the Federation is clearer and other alternatives have been further investigated.

10. Reports
10.1 Executive Officer
Mr. Rawlinson reported having visited 50 Co-operatives out of a possible total of 135 excluding individual Credit Unions, Artificial Breeders and Herd Improvement Co-operatives. Visits are planned for April to the North East and Northern Districts of the State which will conclude the country coverage.

All Fisherman Co-operatives have been visited and a meeting is now proposed subject to the availability in Melbourne of the President of the Australian Fisheries Industry Council.

Council agreed Regional meetings should be organised with provision for members of common interest groups to deliberate on matters of specific concern in addition to the general overall Co-operative factor.

10.2 Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported on a meeting held since the last Federation Council Meeting. He reported that amendments to the Co-operation Act had been prepared for Parliament in 1978. Council expressed its concern at this apparent lack of liaison and consultancy and agreed that:

A reminder should be issued to the Registrar of the major role of the Federation in the area of Co-operative legislation other than Credit and Housing Co-operatives.

10.3 Co-operative Federation of Australia

The next meeting of the Council of the C.F.A. is schedule to be held in Melbourne on 28th March 1979. In the unavoidable inability of Mr. Macintosh to attend, Council proposed Mr. Rigby attend as alternate representative.

11. Retirement

Mr. Mason advised Council of his intention to retire from Council effective from the current meeting. Whilst the Co-operative Housing Association has not yet nominated an alternate Housing Industry representative to the Federation, Council accepted Mr. Mason's retirement with regret and resolved:

To write to the Co-operative Housing Association expressing regret at losing Mr. Mason as a fully participating Councillor of our Federation and expressing the hope that the Housing Association will continue to provide a Councillor able to involve himself in Federation affairs for the mutual benefit of both organisations.

Appreciation for the long, valued and friendly leadership in Council matters given by Mr. Mason at State and Federal level were given from the Chair and by fellow Councillors.

12. Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting of Council will be held on Monday 23rd April 1979.

13. Closure

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1035 p.m.

D. Rigby
23/4/79